

AN  
ADDRESS  
TO THE  
CITIZENS  
OF  
LONDON.

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By a LOVER of LIBERTY.

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TO THE  
WORTHY INHABITANTS  
OF  
LONDON and WESTMINSTER.

THIS  
ADDRESS

IS  
HUMBLY INSCRIBED

By a Sincere LOVER of  
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TO THE  
WESTMINSTER  
OF  
LONDON and WESTMINSTER

THIS  
ADDRESS

HUMBLY INSCRIBED  
TO THE  
LIBRARY OF THE COUNTRY



and perhaps the Concerns of Trade not  
unusually that great Part of the Realm  
keep their Eyes fixed on your Behaviour.

as you point out the Way: we are pleased

and Example of their Metropolis.

It is this reputation of the Nation in your

Favour, Gentlemen, should make you be

indeed it ought, proud of your Influence

and anxious for the Honour of your City

to use that Influence in such a Manner, as

may be most useful to the Interest of the

Constitution, and to the Honour of the

Liberties and Laws of the Kingdom.

As the extensive Trade of your Mem-

bers, and the Importance of your

Credit and Reputation, have made

you of such Consequence to this Kingdom,

you will not be surprised, that I particu-

larly Address myself to you on this in-

teresting Crisis of our publick Affairs; for

it has been of late so much the Custom of

your City to take the Lead of the Nation,

and

and perhaps in the Concerns of Trade not unjustly, that great Part of the Realm keep their Eyes fixed on your Behaviour, ~~and are in many Things given to follow~~ as you point out the Way ; or to be pleased or displeased, according to the Humour and Example of their Metropolis.

IF this Prepossession of the Nation in your Favour, Gentlemen, should make you, as indeed it ought, proud of your Influence, and zealous for the Honour of your Corporation ; so it ought to make you careful, to use that Influence in such a Manner, as may be most suitable to the Interest of the Constitution, and to the Support of the Liberties and Laws of that Kingdom, in whose Welfare you are so deeply concerned.

WHEN his present Majesty, the Native Pride of *England*, a Prince born and educated in your Own Country, first ascended the Throne (where God grant him long to continue!) no Part of the Kingdom were

were more forward to shew their Joy on that happy Occasion than yourselves; nor, do I believe, any Sett of Men in the Nation were more loyal, or more firmly attached to their Sovereign, than the Citizens of *London*. His Majesty's gracious Reception of you, on all Occasions, deservedly encreased your Affection; for I do not think the Rudeness offered to a great Personage in the Theatres, soon after the Death of King *George* the Second, is to be esteemed as an Affront, designed to shew the Sense and Opinion of the City, but rather the riotous Product of some such illiterate and indecent Disturbers of the common Peace, as have made a very ridiculous Figure in the same Place on a later Occasion.

OUR Successes Abroad, and the Increase of your Trade, even in the Midst of an expensive War, gave you frequent Opportunities of testifying your Gratitude to your Prince, and of contemplating a Blessing, whom Heaven seemed to have given

to



to *England*, in the most memorable Æra of their Glory and Honour. His early Intentions of securing, if possible, these Glories to you by Marriage, and the happy Consequences of his Alliance with a Protestant Princess, in the Birth of a Royal Heir, still added to his Splendor, and your Security and Happiness.

BUT even in the Midst of these Glories and Successes, some weak Heads appeared willing to blast your Comforts, by base, low, and scurrilous Tales; and, I fear, too many of those in your City, who were never before wanting in Respect, lent a credulous Ear to Lies, which, tho' they had not even the Face of a bare Possibility to gain any Credit, yet certainly served to lessen Respect, while they cast a ludicrous and infamous Reflection on the highest Personages of the Realm. Base and scandalous as these wretched Scurrilities might appear to Men of Sense and Discernment, yet the Storms which were gathering around, gave us too much Reason to conclude,

clude, from what Quarter the dark Arrows were cast; and your City's general Approbation of a certain rejected Minister, who, till that Time of Day, had deserved your utmost Love, made these Things more tolerated among you, than they ought to have been.

WHATEVER was the Cause of that Minister's Retirement, you were so warm in his Interest, that I am obliged to say, I think you neglected one of the best and greatest of your Friends, nay, almost affronted him, to follow the Humours of a Man, who shewed, in his Opposition, but little Love for the Country he once so much adorned; I mean, if a religious Regard to preserve inviolable all the Privileges of the Constitution to each Branch of it, be deemed, as it certainly ought to be, a Love of our Country; and to add to your Infatuation, an old Offender, who had long been your Derision and Scorn, began to grow in Favour, merely because he was justly despised by his Master, and turned out of

B                      Offices,

Offices, which you, and all the World, knew him incapable of serving.

It is no Wonder then, since you were willingly blinded, that an Opposition, begun out of Pique by a few Malecontents, was so easily spread among you; and that every Blessing intended you, when viewed thro' the perverse Glasses of your discontented Imaginations, appeared dishonourable and inglorious. It was an easy Matter for Men, in such Circumstances, to work up on the Practices already established; and the Negotiations for a Peace being set a-foot by our Sovereign, I solemnly believe with a pure Intention of benefiting Mankind in general, and of encreasing both the Power and Glory of these Kingdoms; the Engines of the Disaffected were levelled entirely at this grand Work, and every Argument and Subtlety were employed, to set the Nation against their greatest Interest and Good. I do not by this intend to be understood, that I think the Peace unexceptionable; far from it, there are many Things,



Things, which, as an *Englishman*, I could wish added to the Articles of it; but then all the World must acknowledge with me, that both *France* and *Spain* have ten Times more Reason to find Fault with it; and so they ought to have; and as to such a Peace as would please every *Englishman*, we may as well look for universal Monarchy, as expect it. For the Trade of your City alone, and its Environs, is so extensive and complex, that many would be great Losers by the very best and most glorious Peace that could be made; and I may add, many, too many, alas! of those, whose private Interest led them to wish the Continuance of the War, have given a very despicable and mean Encouragement to the Enemies of these pacifick Measures. Now, when a great Part of your City were manifestly misled by injurious Representations, from a proud, disappointed Party; and others, were biaased by secret and home-bred Interests and Advantages; and not a few were perplexed and confused by the Intricacy of the Subject, and

were rather inclined, from their natural Prejudice in Favour of their Mother Country, to suppose our Forces invincible, our Resources of Men and Money sufficient and ample, and our Enemies exhausted, it is no Wonder, that artful Men were able so to dress up their specious Discourses and Essays, as to make Multitudes believe just what they pleased; for it is a very difficult Matter for the best Judges, and Men the most conversant in the Business, Trade, Policy, Interest, Strength, Connections, and Constitution of his Majesty's Dominions, to say what, upon the whole, is truly for the Advantage of the Kingdom, or what not, as various Interests will for ever clash against each other; and as almost every Man, thro' his own private Connections, has a partial Bias to some particular System of Politicks; and it is well known, that this Kingdom, and the City of *London* especially, as consisting of the greatest Number of *Englishmen*, are fond of Opposition, and eagerly believe the Complaints and Invectives of those who  
make

make Use of them, and the rest of the World, only as the Means of obtaining their own ambitious or unconstitutional Ends.

By these, and various other Means and Circumstances, your noble City was warped and perverted from that honest and laudable Zeal, they had formerly shewn in the Service of the best of Kings; and a self-sufficient Minister succeeding the Patriot, yourselves had chosen, recommended, and supported, it was no difficult Matter for the Opposition to set you against him; his own want of Policy, his own Disrespect to the People, and Disregard to the Nobility, his Country, and his avowed Partiality to his private Friends, deservedly hastened his Discredit with a free and spirited People.

THUS, was the whole Face of Affairs turned in the City, and a Swarm of scribbling Insects arose, either the Dupes or the Mercenaries of the Opposition,



position, whose Business it was to blow the Flame of Discontent into Tumult and Disorder; but as the Attack was made in Appearance only against a Minister, very few were pleased with, and no Men of Credit chose publicly to commend: So the Wounds aimed, through his Sides, at his Protector, were the more severe and alarming, till, at length some, whose Impudence and abandoned Morals in private Life had deservedly subjected them to the Contempt of every honest and virtuous Man; and, who had long despaired of raising their Name through any great or noble Action, now resolved, like the Incendiary at *Ephesus*, to strike a bold Stroke, and render themselves immortal, by a long List of scurrilous, defamatory, low, dirty and infamous Writings. For some Time your City seemed astonished, at their Impudence and Assurance, and looked upon them in the Light of mad Garreteers, not uncommon Characters in the City, who were flinging Dirt,

either

either to pelt themselves into Pensions or Preferments, or be pelted at themselves in a Pillory. And while their Pens, though insolent and abusive, were directed against such Objects as were either justly obnoxious, or deserved; from their own Meanness, the Opposition they met with from these Heroes of Scurrility, notwithstanding that no one could commend either the Authors or their Manners, yet, in general, the People gave Ear to their Accusations; because they thought they saw the Lash not misapplied, though they had a despicable Opinion of the Hangmen that inflicted them. But this Forbearance in your People, the vain Men misinterpreted and called Approbation; and not content with the Infamy they had uttered against infinitely their Superiors, though not the Favourites of the Town, they encreased their Absurdity with their Fame, and, at length, by the basest and most pitiful Inuendoes, attacked even the Foundations of the Constitution.

T H I S

This last Effort of a malicious Heart  
 was received by your City, not with that  
 honest Scorn and Indignation that ought  
 to have broke from the Brows of  
 much injured and offended *Englishmen*;  
 but was looked upon for several Days  
 with a dubious Amazement; all Men  
 being astonished both at the Boldness,  
 and at the Madness of such Writings,  
 and wondering in their own Minds what  
 Manner of Issue such a nefarious Breach  
 of the public Peace would have; in the  
 mean Time, a disrespectable Silence pre-  
 vailing among those Men, whose Duty  
 and Honour were most concerned to stig-  
 matize such a Performance with its de-  
 served Imprecations, and to punish the  
 bold Levellers, that dared so openly and  
 avowedly rise against the Face of Go-  
 vernment. Some of the noisiest Friends  
 of this Faction stepped forward, and, at  
 first, in Whispers only, but soon in the  
 open Face of Day, they began to cry up  
 these Disturbers and Levellers of Govern-  
 ment,



ment, as the Props and Supporters of Liberty and Freedom; — the unthinking Town soon caught the Alarm, and too many, who suffer the Voice of a few clamorous Brawlers to lead their better Judgments, joined in the unnatural Cry of — and Liberty.

O MY Fellow Countrymen! what greater Contrast could you have drawn, or where could you have found stronger Antipathies, than those you strangely endeavoured to incorporate together.

HAD our noble Forefathers, those genuine Sons of Liberty, who mixed Decency with Spirit, and Loyalty with Freedom, whose private Virtues were only excelled by their public Honour; had they been living, when some fantastic Character, the Curse of his Relations, an ungrateful Friend, debauched in Morals, the Slave of Intemperance, a Brute without natural Affection; and, what is worse, the Figure of a Man

C

without

without Virtue or Religion; had such an one, in the Fool's Cap of Licentiousness, aped the godlike Appearance of an *English* Patriot, how would the just Curses of an affronted and offended People have overwhelmed the guilty Wretch, and sunk him to Perdition. But had the Fiend still heightened the Deformity of his Character by Cruelty, and a faithless dishonourable Breach of private Vows, and an oppressive Tyranny at Home; had he dared lift up his profane Voice against the Prince of his People, and openly struggle to confound the subordinate Distinctions between Man and Man, and introduce again the savage Brutality of lawless Barbarians into a Land of Freedom and Harmony; even in our Times had such a Character existed, doubtless either a T—E, the Friend of Virtue and Honour; or a P—T, the Favourite of Liberty, had dragged the vain Pretender forth to public Scorn, and tore the Lion's Skin from the officious Ass that wore it.

B U T

BUT let me Check my Pen, lest it sink too low, adapted to the Subject it describes; for I make no Doubt, by the general Voice of the People, and especially of your noble City, our mock Patriot stands condemned, and your chief Magistrate, like one of his loyal Predecessors, would not be sorry with his single Arm to oppose such Caitiffs, who had traduced the Prince and Father of their People.

Look then, O loyal City! with Reverence and Love on that great Personage, who so early shared and returned your Affection; if when surrounded by Courtiers, whose Insolence taught them to dictate, instead of obey, he justly, and with the true Spirit of an *Englishman*, refused to submit his Neck to their slavish Yoke, and opposed a Cabal, striving to hector over himself and you; applaud his manly and his royal Temper,



and esteem it as an happy Omen, that no ministerial Tyranny will be suffered to encroach upon your Liberties; if led by a Knowledge of the private Virtues of a good Heart, he strove to make that Heart a public Blessing, your Reverence is due to his paternal Wishes, however unattended by Success: if when suddenly addressed, by a few unprepared Petitioners, to exert his Prerogative in Opposition to the great States of his Kingdom, he with Mildness received what his amiable Disposition obliged him to refuse; bless Heaven, that his Prudence made him thus cautious of reproving those who are, or ought to be, the Bulwarks of our Constitution; and do not wantonly, according to your own private Opinions, dictate to your Prince where he ought to wave, and where extend the Power committed to him alone. No Man can more sincerely wish to see the Cyder-Bill repealed than myself; let us then insist, that our Representatives vote out that Eye-sore to *British* Freedom; yet none but weak-headed

headed Men will ever wish to see their Prince, at the Instigation of a single City, though a powerful One, set aside the Acts of the general Council of the Kingdom.

A N D now to plead my own Excuse : Weak and yet presumptuous have I been, to talk thus openly on Subjects far above my Capacity, to handle with Delicacy or Propriety ; but let my Love of Loyalty and Liberty, of Decency and Truth, of Virtue and my Country, excuse me to the World, for the Voice of the Injured will cry and prevail ; and when Licentiousness stalks thus insolently Abroad, under the Cover of Freedom and public Spirit, every Friend to Royalty and Liberty will enter the Lists, and bid a bold Defiance to the Enemies of his Constitution.

F I N I S.